

1. Calcutta : Rs. 121 crores
2. Bombay : Rs. 32.40 crores
3. Madras : Rs. 13 crores

Under the budget of Urban Development Ministry, Rs. 5 crores have been provided for Urban Transport Consortium Fund for 1991-92.

(b) & (c). Slum Development in the Urban areas of Bombay is a State subject. However, central assistance is also provided for slum improvements in Bombay through the following schemes:-

- (i) *World Bank assisted Bombay Urban Development Project*:- This project is under implementation in Bombay at a total project cost of Rs. 282.33 crores which includes Rs. 23.74 crores for slum development.
- (ii) *Prime Minister's Grant for Bombay*:- Under this scheme Rs. 22 crores have been provided for slum upgradation in Bombay.

9th Finance Commission Grants:- The 9th Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 50 crores to be provided for slum clearance and environment improvement of slums in Bombay as one time special grant-in-aid. The release of funds is being controlled by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

[English]

Backward Districts in Gujarat

3603. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of industrially backward districts in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government propose to declare some more districts of Gujarat as backward; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) The names of Centrally declared backward areas in Gujarat are:- Amreli, Banaskantha, Bhavnagar, Bharuch, Junagadh, Kutch, Mehsana, Panchmahals, Sabarkantha, Surendernagar and Dang.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Fire in Jharia Coalfields

3604. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fire in Jharia coalfields has damaged coal reserves;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to give up fighting the fire and abandoning the Jharia coal mines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOURA): (a) and (b). There were 70 fires in Jharia Coalfield covering an area of 17.32 Sq.Km., since a long time before nationalisation of Coking coal mines. It is difficult to make precise estimates of loss of coal reserves by fires. However, the coal company have estimated that coal reserves to an extent of about 37 million tonnes might have been damaged in these fires.

(c) No, Sir, After nationalisation of the coal mines, concerted efforts have been made through implementation of various schemes for dealing with major fires in Jharia Coalfield. As a result of these efforts, five fires have been successfully extinguished and work of dealing with remaining fires is in progress.

Review of Functioning of Public Distribution System

3606. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a review of the functioning of the Public Distribution System during the last three years was undertaken and whether any deficiencies in the system have been noticed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to strengthen the Public Distribution System and plug the loopholes in its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). An advisory Council on Public Distribution System is functioning, comprising all the State Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies, senior officials of the concerned departments/Ministries of the Central and State Governments and nominated Members of Parliament, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, who is also the Minister for Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. The meeting of the Council is held regularly, atleast once in a year. The last meeting of the Council (13th) was held on 23rd/24th August, 1991. This Council undertakes review of the functioning of the PDS in the States and UTs and considers proposals for improvement in the PDS in its

meetings. The strengthening and streamlining of the PDS is a continual process and the Central and State Governments regularly monitor the functioning of the system and necessary remedial measures, are initiated. The State Governments and UT Administrations have been requested to take stern measures against hoarders, black-market-eers and other anti-social elements to curb unfair trade practices and diversion of PDS commodities. Besides, they have been requested to set up, at various levels, Vigilance Committees comprising consumers particularly, representatives of Women, Voluntary and Consumer Organisations.

Performance of Core Sector

3607. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether performance of core sector industries has been unsatisfactory in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to improve the performance of core sector industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b): A statement giving the production data of the core sector industries for the period April-January, 1991-92 as compared to the level in the corresponding period of last year is enclosed. It shows that production in most of these sectors have shown a significant rise during April-January, 1991-92 compared to April-January, 1990-91.

The Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister has been constituted, inter-alia, to consider problems of infrastructure and give appropriate directions to bring about improvement in performance.